The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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It is a secret worth knowing that lawyers rarely go to law.—Moses Crowell.

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FOXY COMMUNISTS TRICK EMOTIONAL FOLK

Communists who direct that movement find green pasture among persons who are swayed by emotion rather than by reason.

This element considers the "reds" merely "advanced thinkers" like themselves, but who, because of their enthusiasm, are inclined to be destructive, rather than constructive.

The Communists despise this ignorance and despise these liberals. "Sentimentalists," the "reds" scornfully assert between themselves, while openly applauding an oozy, wishy-washy intellectualism that is moved by catch phrases.

The Communists frankly favor a destructive philosophy, but their tactics vary according to the group they deal with. Their changed attitude in the trade unions—unless they believe themselves strong enough to show their teeth—illustrates this point.

The simon-pure Communist—not the band-wagon kind—stands for the destruction of the present order—its industrial and political systems, its morals and its ethics. Everything now considered sacred between man and man is "bourgeoise morality." No rule of combat must stand in the way of revolution that will place the future society in the hands of a self-imposed few.

Communists who work behind the scenes are skilled psychologists—they know how crowds can be moved. This knowledge of mass psychology is their stock in trade to secure donations for the few who will order the revolution.

Then the cry "All power to the workers" will be raised, as in Russia. This war whoop is considered too sacred for ordinary propaganda. It must not be used by soap-boxers during the agitation period. When the workers are regimented and disciplined to the point where they obey commands, and economic and political conditions warrant, the order will be given.

While Communists hate organized labor, which is expressed through attacks on union officials, they have a contempt for the so-called liberal, who does not understand the Communists' purposes and tactics. The trade union official does. The liberal wants the "reds" to be constructive. He does not know that this is the last thing the "reds" favor.

The Communist stands for revolution. Not a political change, but a revolution in every sense of the word—economics, politics, morality, ethics, systems, methods, principles and deep-fixed dogmas.

These, together with the trade unions, are "adjuncts of the exploiting class," and must be uprooted and overthrown, saith the Communists in their inner circles.

Publicly they assume a condescending pose before the milk-and-water intellectual, who can be used to create a favorable public opinion and contribute liberally whenever the "reds" run afoul of the law.

If these liberals understood Communism they would be terrified.

They would not attempt to change a leopard's spots by pleading that the "reds" be less destructive.

OIL LANDS REVERT TO PUBLIC; HIGH-HANDED JOB IS BLOCKED

Washington, July 23.—The Navy Department announces that on August 1 it will take back from the Interior Department the control of oil leases that Secretary of the Interior Fall turned over to the Doheny and Sinclair interests five years ago.

Behind this statement is a story of one of the biggest "jobs" that special privilege has attempted in recent years.

On April 21, 1922, the late Senator La Follette introduced a resolution in the Senate "directing the Secretary of the Interior to send to the Senate certain detailed information as to oil leases made by the department within naval reserves Nos. 1 and 2 in California and No. 3 in Wyoming." This was the first attempt to restore the oil lands. The Senate modified the resolution by authorizing the Senate Committee on Public Lands and Surveys to investigate the entire question.

It was found that control of these oil lands had been transferred by executive order from the Navy Department, where they had been placed by act of Congress, to the Interior Department. Secretary of Interior Fall then leased the oil lands to Doheny and Sinclair.

Defenders of this jobbery claimed that private interests were draining off the government oil by drilling wells close to the oil reservations.

The handful of protestors in the Senate were ridiculed, but a public opinion finally developed and court action to annul the leases was started. This was successful, courts holding that the transfer from the Navy Department by executive order was illegal and that the leases were made through fraud.

The oil lands will now revert back to the Navy Department. Criminal proceedings against several of the parties to the deal are pending while others who were involved have fled to foreign countries. The rescue of these natural resources is a vindication of the small group in the Senate who dared to incur the ill will of private exploiters.

THE NICARAGUAN SITUATION

General Chamorro, in command of the Nicaraguan army, overthrew President Solorano and set up a dictatorship Chamorro juggled the government so a subservient Congress elected Adolph Diaz, ignoring Vice President Sacasa, who was elected with Solorano by a popular vote.

The Sacasa adherents resorted to arms to enforce popular sovereignty. They were defeating Diaz, when the usurper called on the United States Government to "supervise" next year's elections.

President Coolidge appointed Henry L. Stimson, New York banker, to visit Nicaragua as his special representative. Stimson called on both parties to lay down their arms, or the United States Government will compel them to. This is satisfactory to the usurpers. Many of the Sacasa adherents reject this outside interference with the internal affairs of their country. United States marines have killed and wounded several hundred of them. They are called "rebels" and "bandits" by the State Department's publicity bureau.

Prior to these killings, President Green forwarded a vigorous protest to the State Department.

EDUCATION WINS WHERE LAW FAILS

Washington, July 23.—Education succeeded where law failed in the fight against the barberry plant.

This shrub, once considered valuable for decorative purposes in yards, is responsible for black stem rust that has cost small grain farmers millions of dollars. Thirteen grain States adopted statutes making it compulsory to destroy the barberry.

This legislation gradually fell into disuse, following the infliction of fines that resulted in resentment.

The Federal Bureau of Plant Industry took up the fight and adopted a different course by presenting an educational scheme. The public was shown how rust spores breed on the barberry and are carried by air current to growing grain. Farmers became interested. They asked for assistance and aided in search and destruction of the barberry. Rust losses have been reduced spectacularly.

"Our educational campaign has been a revelation in law enforcement," said Lynn D. Hutton, associate pathologist of the Bureau of Plant Industry. "We have had widespread and eager co-operation, good will and few, if any, voluntary violations."

CAN'T SILENCE GREEN BY INJUNCTION WRIT

Washington, July 23.—"Your threat to silence me by an injunction will not swerve me from discharging my duty as president of the A. F. of L. when I protest against your company 'union'."

This is the substance of President Green's reply to a letter to him from Frank Hedley, president of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, New York City, who notifies the A. F. of L. executive that he is violating an injunction when he attempts to interfere with a company "union," maintained by this corporation, or attempts to assist in organizing these workers in the legitimate trade union.

"It occurs to me," said President Green, "that it ought to be enough for you and your associates to control your corporation, chartered by a branch of the government which secures its power from the consent of the governed, without seeking to control the lives and activities of those employed by your corporation. Autocracy in industry is just as reprehensible as autocracy in government. It has no place in a country where freedom of action is guaranteed and where the exercise of legal and moral rights belonging to both employer and employe is universally recognized.

"Those who today practice autocracy in government and in industry seem to have failed to benefit from the lessons of the past."

"LET EVERY NATION BE FREE TO SOLVE INTERNAL ISSUES"

—William Green, President A. F. of L.

Washington, July 23.—"We believe in the right of every nation to work out their own destiny, free from molestation by any other nation," said William Green, chairman of the Pan-American Federation of Labor, in welcoming delegates to the fifth annual congress.

"We are irrevocably opposed to the use of arms or a declaration of war in the settlement of any dispute that may arise between the Latin-American republics and the United States Government," said Mr. Green.

"We believe every country should be accorded the fullest and freest opportunity to work out their own political salvation; that the self-determination of every country, great and small, must be recognized. For that reason we are unalterably opposed to the interference of our government, or any other government, in the political and domestic affairs of any other nation on the American continent. We have watched developments in Mexico, Nicaragua and other Central and South American nations, and it is quite opportune for us to sound our note in the interest of peace and declare to the world that there shall not be—there must not be —any war between the United States Government or any Central or South American government; that there must not be a resort to force in the settlement of any dispute. We insist that grievances and disputes be settled in conference. In case this fails then a board of arbitration must be formed to render a fair and honest decision.

"We are interested in raising the standard of life and living among working people. We wish to encourage the workers represented in the Pan-American Federation of Labor to develop their economic strength so that it may be intelligently and constructively used in furthering their general common welfare and the interest of the men, women and children dependent upon them. In this respect we differ from most Pan-American organizations that are formed for the purpose of promoting commercial enterprises, for the purpose of exercising financial and corporate power in an attempt to exploit the resources of not only the Latin-American nations, but the United States as well."

The following countries are represented in the congress: United States, Cuba, Mexico, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Porto Rico, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Peru, Costa Rico, Salvador and Colombia.

COMPANY "UNION" AND INJUNCTION ARE UNIONISTS' MAJOR PROBLEMS

New York, July 23.—The company "union" law, the labor injunction are two major problems that confront organized labor, said President Green in an address before the convention of the International Longshoremen's Association.

The A. F. of L. executive said these issues involve the liberty of wage workers who are denied rights accorded other citizens.

"The company 'union' is a modern development," said President Green. "Those opposing we are meeting through the company 'union' is fundamentally brutal, but it is more reasonable. The difference is about the same as the difference between hanging a man and electrocuting him. In the old days, figuratively speaking, they attempted to hang us; now they attempt to electrocute us.

"The company 'union' originates with the corporation, it is organized by the corporation, it is managed and directed by the corporation. Is there anyone who believes that such 'union' can serve the interests of the workers involved?"

The contract corporations force their employes to sign contracts illegal because they are based on, said President Green.

"A contract must be entered into freely and must carry the good will and the good faith of both parties. No contract can be legal or binding in my judgment, that does not recognize these principles of freedom to negotiate, freedom to decide, freedom to shape one's course.

"But when you are told that unless you sign there is no work for you, there is then a breach of contract and how have you an opportunity to exercise your judgment on such a contract?"

UNIONISTS ARE FREE; CALL NO MAN MASTER

By VICTOR OLANDER
Secretary-Treasurer Illinois Federation of Labor

A crew of Vikings on a voyage of exploration sailed up a river in France, so the legend runs. The inhabitants gathered in a curious throng on shore and hailed the vessel with the cry: "Whence come you and who are your masters?"

The grizzled old warriors on the ship roared back the answer: "We come from all the world and we call no man master."

How like our American trade union members! From the east and the west, the north and the south they have come. From England, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, France, Poland, Italy—everywhere, from all the world we come, impelled by the thought that governed these seamen of centuries ago when they declared: "We call no man master."

We are here, we are organized, we are in our unions, because we seek a greater freedom."

CAR STRIKE LOOMS IN NEW YORK CITY

New York, July 23.—The anti-union attitude of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company may culminate in a strike on the subways of this city.

The company ignores appeals of the Street Car Men's Union to confer on working conditions and is compelling employes to sign a 5,000-word contract not to join that organization. This document, prepared by company lawyers, would fill two columns of an average newspaper. It is full of loopholes and is circulated by company agents.

The company declines to answer this question by attorneys of the Street Car Men's Union: "If an employe refuses to sign the contract will he be discharged?" The company's only correspondence with the union is a warning that if a strike is called an old injunction against the union will be revived. Company attorneys agree that their contract is of little value, as far as individuals are concerned, but they expect it to be a basis for damage suits against the union.

A company "union" is maintained by this corporation. The members staged an independent strike last year, but were defeated. The company concluded, however, to raise wages 5 per cent and reinstate the strikers. Many of them are quietly joining the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Employes, affiliated to the A. F. of L.

The individual contracts are, according to company attorneys, "a super abundance of caution," and are based on a decision by the United States Supreme Court, in the Hitchman case, December 10, 1917, that the injunction can be used to uphold "yellow dog" contracts.

BAN PLACED ON UNION BY FEDERAL BOARD

Washington, July 23.—The Federal personnel classification board refused to deal with representatives of unions but will consider complaints of individual federal employes. This action was taken when the women's union in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing requested a rehearing on a wage ruling by the board. The women are affiliated to the National Federation of Federal Employes.

Officers of the union announced the board's action. President Steward said it is "an attempt to deprive employes of the right to collectively present grievances specifically recognized by congressional enactment." He said "it offers a further example of the continued unfitness of the personnel classification board to administer the act which created it."

ONE UNION FOR MINERS

Southport, England, July 23.—One union for British coal miners is discussed at the first annual conference of these workers since 1925. National union advocates point to weaknesses of the present structure, known as the Miners' Federation of Great Britain.

The federation consists of a dozen districts, each having autonomy over work and wage conditions.

WAGE WOMEN OPPOSE "EQUAL SEX" PLAN

Denver, July 23.—Trade union women of this state are protesting against the National Women's Party declaration, at their recent Colorado Springs convention, in favor of a constitutional amendment that would remove from the federal constitution all reference to males.

The Colorado Labor Advocate refers to the women's party as "an auxiliary to the Republican Party," and declares that the amendment is "a disguised attempt to rob women in industry of all protective legislation."

The members of the women's party called on President Coolidge at his summer home in the Black Hills. The visit was well staged and press agented. Trade unionists agree that many state laws inflict inequalities on women, but they insist that changes can be made by state legislatures.

If a constitutional amendment were passed the evils would not only be removed, but all women's legislation secured through trade union effort would be annulled.

The National Women's Party claims that the amendment will have a contrary effect. They can hardly be considered an authority on the subject, however, as few of them work for wages.

WAVERING LOYALTY IS EASILY STARTED

Washington, July 23.—"To fail to attend union meetings is the first step in losing interest," said President Green, writing in American Federationist, current issue.

"Loss of interest means a wavering of loyalty. An efficient trade union is insurance against deterioration in wages and work conditions. There is not always time to revive or reorganize the union after danger develops. In addition to a strong union for defensive purposes it is even more necessary to have an alert, active union to enable wage earners to take constructive part in considering problems and determining policies.

"It is far better policy to avert trouble by seeing to it that developments are wisely directed than merely to rely on defensive tactics to repel aggression."

FOOD PRICES GO UP

Washington, July 23.—Reports by the Bureau of Labor Statistics do not sustain the claim that prices are falling. The food index, issued by the bureau, shows for June 15, 1927, an increase of 2 per cent in that month.

During that period the average cost of food increased in 46 of the 51 cities reporting. Cincinnati and Denver led with a 5 per cent increase, followed by Atlanta, Chicago, Columbus, Indianapolis, Louisville, Omaha and Salt Lake City with a 4 per cent gain.

The 3 per cent advance includes Detroit, Butte, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Peoria, Pittsburgh, Rochester and Savannah.

ROCK-DUSTED MINES WILL PROTECT LIFE

Washington, July 23.—Statistics prove the life-saving value of rock-dusting in mines, but because the plan is not compulsory, it is not generally adopted by coal owners.

Partial rock-dusting provides no assurance that areas should be thoroughly rock-dusted, including haulage entries, air courses, rooms, cross cuts and pillar regions. The rock dusting should be replenished from time to time to hold the incombustible content of the rib, roof and floor dusts at all times over 65 per cent.

"There have been, since January 1, 1926, ten major explosions in partly rock-dusted and non-rock-dusted mines in contrast with seven explosions of a limited character in rock-dusted mines. In the former, 505 men out of 934, or 60 per cent of the men in the mines, escaped. In the dock-dusted mines, 2,078 out of 2,135, or 97 per cent of the men in the mines at the time of the explosion, escaped death."

Director Turner said the cost of rock-dusting is comparable with accident insurance premiums, apart from the humanitarian and psychologic value in saving life and improving morale in coal mining.

HIGH-PRICED NECKWEAR MADE IN TENEMENTS

New York, July 23.—Hand-sewn neckwear that retails for $2 and $3 and upward is made in tenements in this city by low-paid workers, according to a survey made by the United Neckwear Makers' Union.

The widespread growth of home work on neckties, it is stated, endangers health standards of 5,000 men and women workers in this industry.

The union demands a 40-hour week in May, July and August, the abolition of home work and the enrollment of home workers in the union.

FAVOR OHIO SCHEME IN COMPENSATION

Boston, July 23.—The Ohio system of State-operated workmen's compensation will be presented to the convention of the Massachusetts Federation of Labor by the executive council of that body.

Arrangements will be made to secure the 25,000 signatures necessary to place the question on next year's ballot if the plan is approved.

YELLOW DOG CONTRACT IS GUNMAN'S METHOD

Milwaukee, July 23.—The "yellow dog" contract is as void as a promise made before the barrel of a gunman's weapon, says the executive board of the Wisconsin Federation of Labor, in its annual report.

The unionists declare that workers should be cautious in appealing to the legislature to remedy evils that they themselves can remove, but courts have joined with anti-union employers and the time has arrived for workers to ask for statutory relief against the "yellow dog" and to protect the right of association in trade unions.

INJUNCTION DENIED

Portland, Ore., July 23.—Judge John H. Stevenson dissolved a temporary injunction against the Taxi Drivers' Union. The court held these strikers have a right to picket and to advertise anti-union companies.

PENNY PINCHING IS RIDICULED; LET FEDERAL LABOR PRODUCE

Washington, July 23.—The Loyal Order of Woodpeckers, composed of government employes who are interested in small savings, is ridiculed by Luther C. Steward, president of the National Federation of Federal Employes, writing in the official magazine of that organization.

Mr. Steward expresses impatience with the thought expressed by a government official that "an average annual saving of $1 on the part of the 546,000 active Federal employes will mean more than half a million dollars saved."

"That's true," said President Steward. "And it might be remarked that a saving of $2 by each employe would exact a saving of more than a million dollars, but, to paraphrase the words of a comic cartoonist, it doesn't seem to mean anything.

"What of it if Federal employes do save $1 each? Economy in government always is desirable, but is the prime purpose of government offices to save and save and save, or is it to transact the public business? It certainly is the latter. If this can be done with economy, accomplished well and good, but do not let us lose sight of the fact that necessary expenditure is essential.

"Too much emphasis on saving can develop a picayunish trend of mind. Picking up bits of string for bent pens and reclaiming stubs of lead pencils will not save the government from bankruptcy, nor will it get the public business done.

"The best modern thought is that employes may be used to better advantage in producing than in merely trying to effect small and inconsequential savings. And the Federal Government is no exception to this principle."

CARPENTERS' UNION PROVES ITS UNITY PAYS

Fairmont, W. Va., July 23.—Carpenters' Union No. 448 celebrated its thirty-fifth anniversary at a public meeting.

The local was organized in 1892 with 14 members. The wage was $4.12 for a 66-hour week. The union now has a membership of 145 with a wage scale of $8 for an eight-hour day.

COMPANY "UNION" FAILS

Bend, Ore., July 23.—More than 400 employes of the Brooks-Scanlon lumber mill repudiated the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen, a company "union" that was organized during the war.

The legion sanctioned a 5 per cent wage cut, and officials are rushing to the scene in the hope that the rebellion can be quelled.

COSSACK PROPOSAL HAS HARD SLEDDING

Springfield, Ill., July 23.—The General Assembly's rejection of the State Cossack bill is the fifth defeat of this It is now generally accepted that the Cossacks would supplant local police authority and place all power in a central head, controlled by the Governor. Trade unionists have emphasized this point.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Bloomington, Ill., July 23.—The annual convention of the Indiana Federation of Labor will convene in this city on Wednesday, August 31.

EASTERN UNIONISTS ARE AIDED BY GREEN

Washington, July 23.—An appeal to national and international affiliates to aid the Connecticut organization and education campaign has been issued by President Green.

The A. F. of L. executive includes a report to him by Special Organizer Collins, who has charge of the campaign. Mr. Collins says the Connecticut Manufacturers' Association and allied interests exercise a strong influence on the general public upon all matters that apply to the economic life of that State, but despite this power, the workers are making gains. The State Federation of Labor succeeded in improving the Connecticut compensation law. The anti-union forces accepted the amendments in the hope that further agitation would subside.

STATE COMPENSATION FAVORED BY EMPLOYERS

Helena, Mont., July 23.—Higher costs for workers' compensation is causing many employers in this State to investigate State-operated compensation, according to reports to the Montana Federation of Labor convention.

The present law gives employers the choice of insurance with private companies or with the State fund. The state system usually proves cheaper and is more satisfactory from the standpoint of prompt and liberal adjustments.

CLOSED TEXTILE PLANT CAN PAY HIGH DIVIDEND

Holyoke, Mass., July-23.—Digectors of the Lyman Cotton Mills voted to close the plant. The question will be submitted to stockholders. The concern has operated for 73 years and employs more than 1,000 workers. A vigorous fight to retain the mill is being made by the minority, but the majority insist that this is impossible because of high labor costs.

One feature, however, is given little publicity. The company has a bank roll of nearly $1,000,000, which will be divided among stockholders. This includes $700,000 in government bonds.

CLARKE RE-ELECTED

Cambridge, Ohio, July 23.—William P. Clarke, president, and other officials of the American Flint Glass Workers' Union were re-elected at the Flints' convention here. Clarke has been president for 24 years. He has the unusual record of continuous peace in this industry during that time.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

International Falls, Minn., July 23.—The annual convention of the Minnesota Federation of Labor will convene here Monday, August 15.

TAXI DRIVERS UNITING

Vancouver, Canada, July 23.—Taxi drivers in this city organized and are chartered by the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

INDIANA EDITOR OUT; GOVERNOR PAROLES

Indianapolis, July 23.—George R. Dale, Muncie editor, who faced a 90-day sentence in jail and a $500 fine for alleged contempt of court imposed by Judge Clarence W. Dearth of Delaware county, has won a "Scotch verdict."

He has been paroled by Governor Jake Harris Hixson, on recommendation of the trustees of the Indiana State Farm. The release was granted "under the usual conditions," which means that Dale's fine must be paid at once, that he will remain under supervision of the warden of the State Farm for the term of the parole and that he must go through the formality of being committed to the institution and serve a short time there as a prisoner.

The sentence was the culmination of a three-year fight that grew out of an article in Dale's paper, the Muncie Post-Democrat, alleging political terrorism in Delaware county politics. He attacked Circuit Court Judge Dearth, and was held in contempt of court. On appeal to the Indiana State Supreme Court, that body ruled that the truth is not a defense in contempt cases. Dale lost an appeal to the United States Supreme Court on a technicality.

Judge Dearth was afterwards impeached by the Indiana State Senate but was acquitted by a small majority. At these hearings many of the charges made by Dale were sustained.

The case attracted nation-wide attention because of the Indiana Supreme Court's ruling.

FACTORY WORKERS DECREASED IN JUNE

Washington, July 23.—Employment in manufacturing industries decreased 0.7 per cent in June as compared with May, and payroll totals decreased 2.4 per cent, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This is the third month in succession to show decreased employment, but the percentages of decreases this month is less than in May or April. Compared with June, 1926, employment last month decreased 2.4 per cent and payroll totals were 2.3 per cent lower.

PRINTING PRESSMEN GAIN

Vancouver, Canada, July 23.—Printing pressmen employed on local newspapers secured an arbitration agreement that raises their pay $4 a week, retroactive to September, last year. The new rate is $46.

The long negotiations made some of the members impatient, but cool judgment prevailed, and this policy has been vindicated.

STEEL WORKERS STRIKE

Cleveland, July 23.—Steel workers are on strike against the Union Rolling Mill, operated by the Bourne-Fuller Company. This concern abandoned a 40-year policy of recognizing the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.